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IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED?

The following interesting report of John Hays Hammond Jr., who represented the Conference Committee on National Preparedness before the Governors during their inspection of the United States fleet off Boston, on August 25, fully answered the question, "What Is the Matter With Our Navy?" We are especially desirous of laying the report before our readers. It follows:

"I had the privilege of witnessing today aboard the Wyoming, the impressive naval review of part of the North Atlantic fleet.

"To the layman it was an imposing sight to see the torpedo flotilla as it steamed past in double line formation at about 20 knots an hour. But the layman is impressed only by the picture and his thoughts in the matter go no further. The torpedo boats as they passed to the scrutiny of one understanding their true condition and not merely their outward effect, would have shown a number of interesting facts.

"In the first place, these boats instead of having the four to six officers aboard, necessary for their proper handling, had only two officers. Their crews consisted of only about half the necessary number of men. In case of sudden national emergency these vessels could not be properly handled to perform the functions for which they are designed. With the small crew operating them, they could not maintain their maximum speed of 28 knots, which is the most essential quality in craft of this type.

"Outside the matter of their personnel the type of torpedo craft passing the Wyoming in review, would present a poor comparison with the destroyers of the foreign powers. A large number of vessels of the same class in the British and German navies have speeds of from 33 to 35 knots an hour. Leading the torpedo flotilla came the Birmingham, a reminder that we have only three light cruisers of considerable speed, and these vessels, when compared to the numerous craft of this type in the British and German navies, would present a sorry contrast in their relatively low speed and weak armament. Today what few torpedo boats we possess would be easily swept off the seas by the fast cruisers of the enemy possessing speed far superior to our destroyers and torpedo craft, sea going qualities enabling them to run down these torpedo boats, and an armament that in an engagement would soon turn our boats into scrap iron. Offsetting the stimulation of a pleasant picture, the passing of the flotilla, left a number of unpleasant queries in mind as to what on earth we could do if our international situation came to a showdown.

"A few minutes later 19 of our capital ships steamed past in impressive line formation. To the uninitiated they seemed invulnerable, to those interested in naval development it was obvious that only four out of the 19 ships would make a real showing under modern battle conditions. These vessels also were only about half manned, and, as it takes four years to train a sailor, they will have to fight in this condition should the occasion arise any time within the next four years. The speed of the best of these vessels is six knots less than the Bluecher, whose inferiority of speed split her destruction in the naval action in the North Sea.

"As we watched these massive structures pass, some of us wondered how long they could contest with the superior ranges gun power and speed of the modern battle cruisers.

"We should have 21 battleships to protect our Atlantic coast; we have only 17 ships in commission, four are useless to the nation, as there are not enough men even to run them. With every resource tapped we are 30,000 men short in our navy."

have 1900 officers of the line, we must have 1400 more. It takes four years to train a sailor, but ten years to make a well trained officer.

"The organization of the navy is the root of its inadequacy. It must have a governing staff to formulate a consistent policy of naval development. A step toward this end has been made in the appointment of Admiral Benson as chief of operations but the matter should go farther.

"The mere appropriation of money no matter how stupendous the sum, will not give us the navy we need. Appropriations will be misappropriations until the navy is properly organized. The proper number in personnel will only come with proper national interest in our fleet. If the navy is inadequate, it is primarily the fault of the people and not the fault of any legislative or official branch of government. Our officials are all awake to the danger of our naval impotence; let us hope that the people will be back of Mr. Daniels in his patriotic work in strengthening of our most important means of defense."

JOHN HAYS HAMMOND JR.

THE BALKAN STATES AND THE WAR

If Germany can keep the Balkan states neutral she will have won a diplomatic victory counterbalancing that won by the Allies at Rome. But defeat here will be more expensive than that in the Italian capital. For the fall of Constantinople is an event far more important to the issue of the war than the capture of Warsaw without the Russian army. One of the most dramatic circumstances in the whole strength is now supplied by the Balkan crisis. The solution may not settle the war, but if the Allies are defeated it will materially lengthen it, and may save the Turk for many months or even years.

Rarely in human history has there been a more striking contrast than that supplied by the fortunes of Bulgaria two years ago and today. Then she was beaten and forsaken, a pariah among the Balkan pariahs. Today Bulgarian decision is awaited in every capital of Europe with the intensest concern, and the rulers of all the Great Powers are bidding against each other for Bulgarian favors. Even Czar Ferdinand's chagrin at missing that triumphal entrance into Byzantium and the world filling ceremony at Saint Sophia must be partially forgotten today when no king is too great to do him homage.—Review of Reviews for September.

ALWAYS IT

Now take notice of this fact—that British textile manufacturers are permitted to import German made dyes from Holland under certain regulations established by the British government. It makes a great difference whose ox is gored. Great Britain does not want its textile trade to suffer. It does not care about the American trade. It permits English manufacturers to buy dyes of German manufacture, but refuses to permit American manufacturers. The English mills keep open—the American mills are beginning to close.

A few years ago the so called "13 puzzle" held the attention of the nation. In its most difficult aspects it was yet a toy adapted to the intelligence of a babe in comparison with the puzzle the game of international law presents. In that game Uncle Sam is always "it."—Los Angeles Express.

SYSTEM OF EFFICIENCY

Prof. Gliddings of Columbia University has stated some wholesome if unpalatable truths in his recent comment upon European and American conditions. German efficiency, he declares is secured by the exercise of autocratic power to an extent that Americans are not likely to tolerate. But French efficiency which seems to be showing up as quite a match for German efficiency, is secured by cooperation under the supervision of men of admittedly powerful intellect. In France he points out, the voters put their best intellects at the head of the political system. In America the politician is often a cheaper, less efficient man than the average business or professional man.

If the United States wants to become efficient (and it must become so or suffer serious disaster when the present war is over) it may have to choose between the iron systems of government instituted by Prussian statesmen, and the popular government of the French idea, securing its efficiency by exalting the leading men of each community to public office.—Boston Advertiser.

Considering that they never learn or voice anything new, the bird singers are mighty popular.

Man is still a savage to the extent that he has least respect for those things that can't hurt him.

OUR PUBLIC FORUM



Otto Kahn On Financial Farm Loans

Every citizen who desires to become capable in business should study banking, and every farmer who wants to see the business of agriculture properly financed should study diligently the financial systems of other industries. All other lines of industry have developed financial facilities adapted to their needs. We have all sorts of financial syndicates authorized by law or custom to deal in a certain line of securities, but in none of these financial channels will farm securities travel without a bonus in the way of an excessive rate of interest or heavy discounts.

The most powerful financial institutions in America are private banks and they are the most important to the financial life of industry. In no line of business does honesty, efficiency and stability make more imperative demands than upon public in his business judgment and integrity. Mr. Otto Kahn of Kuhn, Loeb & Company, when asked to state the relation of the private banker to the business of the nation, said in part:

"One of the most important functions of the private banker is to be the instrument for providing the money needed for the efficient conduct and development of railroads and other industries. He does this by buying securities in bulk from those needing capital, for which purpose he usually associates himself with a large number of other financial houses, great and small, thus forming what is called a syndicate. Having in this way concluded the buying transaction he offers to the public the securities purchased by means of advertising, circularizing and through the facilities of the retail houses included in the syndicate, many of whom employ traveling salesmen. Of course the banker and the syndicate count on a reasonable profit for their services; on the other hand they run the risk of the securities, which they have definitely bought and paid for at a fixed price, remaining on their hands wholly, or in part, if the public, for one reason or another, should be unwilling to buy them. The selling of securities is a highly specialized trade, requiring much experience, organization, machinery and scrutiny. This is one of the reasons why corporations do better in offering securities to the public through bankers than if they offered them direct. The willingness of the public to buy depends upon their confidence in the integrity and the judgment of the banker who makes the offer, and a banker who attempts to mislead the public, or who is deficient in care or judgment, would very soon find himself without customers and, therefore, out of business. In many European countries, the functions of the private banker include the placing of bonds secured by farm mortgages. Bonds of this nature are issued in large quantities by mortgage banks who buy mortgages on farms and other real estate and deposit them as security for their own bonds, which in their turn are sold to bankers. It is to be hoped that similar institutions will, in course of time, be created in America, thus placing the farming industry on a par with other important industries in facilities to obtain capital."

Japan's Interest In China

Beside commercial interests, Japan has in China most vital political interest, for the shaping of events in the latter might not only undermine Japan's position on the Asiatic mainland, won at an enormous sacrifice of blood and treasure, but might endanger even her national existence. For self protection, therefore, Japan cannot remain idle while China's weakness constitutes a constant source of trouble in the Far East and while China helplessly strips herself of valuable territory and rights at the bidding of European Powers. The ultimate aim of our China policy, says Count Okuma, has been no other than to awaken her from this morbid torpor in order to insure her future prosperity and avoid conflict with the European nations. Over and over the warning has been given; time and again it has been left unheeded. Nay, even the grave disasters that repeatedly overtook China have not succeeded in awakening her from lethargy. The sad and humiliating spectacles that meet one at every turn, at the Legation Quarter of Peking where foreign troops are quartered, at the foreign settlements wherein China's sovereignty is overriden and are established republics within the republic—these also have failed to impress upon China and make her bestir herself. President Yuan Shih Kai has himself confessed that as soon as the trouble was over, we indulged in all kinds of pleasure, forgetting all the former humiliations. Unpleasant task as it is to narrate this sad story, it must be done to clarify the situation. In short, in spite of the wonderful stride China has made within recent years in various domains of civilization, she still lacks self reliance, foresight, preparedness.

Under the circumstances the utmost Japan can do is to adopt every legitimate means to safeguard her interest and forestall European encroachments upon her neighbor. Moreover, friendship engages Japan to proffer to China suggestions for her betterment. This must have been the inspiration back of the proposals made by Japan as to the employment of Japanese political, military, and financial advisors and the supply of arms and ammunition. They are, however, entirely different in character as Baron Kato explained in his instructions to the Japanese Minister at Peking from the demands that were pressed and accepted. The former class belongs to friendly proffer, and it was but just that they were expunged from the ultimatum and left for future discussion. Their acceptance by China depends altogether upon the value she places on Japanese friendship and ability.—Review of Reviews.

DeWitt—What is the sense of that rule forbidding an athlete to sell his prizes?

Winks—They are afraid some fellow might find out how much his \$110 gold watch really cost.—New York Post.

Why Germany Went East

The first phase of the Great war has long ago become clear in the mind of all observers. In August of last year the whole German military machine was directed against France with the purpose of eliminating the republic from the conflict in the first six weeks. The failure at the Marne was followed by the repulse on the Yser. Not only was Germany unable to get a decision in her first campaign, but she lost much of the territory occupied by her troops in the first great advance.

More than this, as recent reports begin to make clear, Germany not only missed a decision, but she lost the great chance to occupy the Channel ports of France and thus obtain a base for her attacks upon Great Britain. When the main effort had been checked at the Marne and German troops were safe behind the Aisne, there came the second and last effort in the west the drive at Calais which was stopped at Ypres. With this drive German offensive operations in the west ended. The great deadlock was an accomplished fact after November 1, and the last shots of the Battle of Ypres were fired on November 15.

Meantime the whole face of the situation had changed. Austria had failed utterly in her mission. Hers was the duty to hold to Russia while Germany disposed of France. For six weeks the Hapsburg armies were to hold back the Czar's masses. But in four, the Austrian armies had been routed and were fleeing from Lemberg to the San. Germany had not in six weeks disposed of France but long before this time was up Russia was well along in the work of disposing of Austria.

It is well then to fix on November 1, as approximately the date when Germany decided to turn east, to reverse her program and, while holding back French and British troops in the west, strive to eliminate Russia. In the meantime, early in October she had sent troops from the west to aid the Austrians and Von Hindenburg's first drive at Warsaw made with a relatively small force and a raid rather than a serious bid for decision, had temporarily relieved the pressure upon the beaten Austrians and held up the Russian advance toward Cracow and the Carpathians.

Successful in postponing Austrian disaster, Hindenburg's first campaign demonstrated clearly that Russia was becoming too formidable to be left to Austria. Austria, too, had become far too weak to be relied upon for any great feat of arms in the future except when her armies should be reorganized by Germans and her masses stiffened by German contingents.

In December, then, we have the first of the long series of German operations in the East, which were designed to bring about a decision in this field. For, note the unity and consistency of German thought as revealed in her strategy, it was essential that Germany should get a decision over one of her foes, before they could collectively beat her down.

What she had tried to do against France, it was now even more essential that she should accomplish against Russia. She had planned to bring her victorious armies west from France to destroy Russia. She must now fight a campaign to release all her eastern armies for use against the Allies in the west.

Thus, in a military sense we are witnessing today the closing operations in the second phase of the war. Germany's second bid for a decision is at the critical point. Within the next few weeks we shall know whether the decision that was not to be had in the west has been attained in the east and the victory lost at the Marne has been retrieved at the Vistula.

In view of the importance of the eastern operation, in view of the obvious fact that it constitutes the most colossal military operation of modern war, in numbers, in extent of territory, in strategic combinations, I purpose to devote most of my comment for this month to a slightly detailed review of the eastern campaign and leave to another number the discussion of other phases of the war, as yet wholly insignificant by contrast.—Review of Reviews.

The Latest Fashion Hints

Do you remember that delightful silk braid in loose basket weaves that was used for trimming a number of years ago? Well, it is again in fashion. Rows and rows of it are used to trim both wraps and frocks. It comes in varying widths. The favorite arrangement is to braid a skirt from the hem to just below the knees with alternating widths of the braid sometimes as many as twelve rows in all being used.

A hint of the directoire period is seen in afternoon frocks. The note is masculine rather than feminine, but in either even the lines of that period are so attractive that one cares not whether its masculine or feminine expression is followed. Several afternoon frocks also display an 1880 draping at the back, almost suggesting the bustle, only that the fullness is entirely accomplished by the material alone, folded upon fold. The latter frocks are best made of stiff taffeta. The back fullness is then more easily accomplished.

Another indication of the return of past fashions is a new dolman wrap quite along original lines. Taffeta in any of the various colors is charmingly employed in the construction of the dolman. Pinked quilting usually borders the edges.

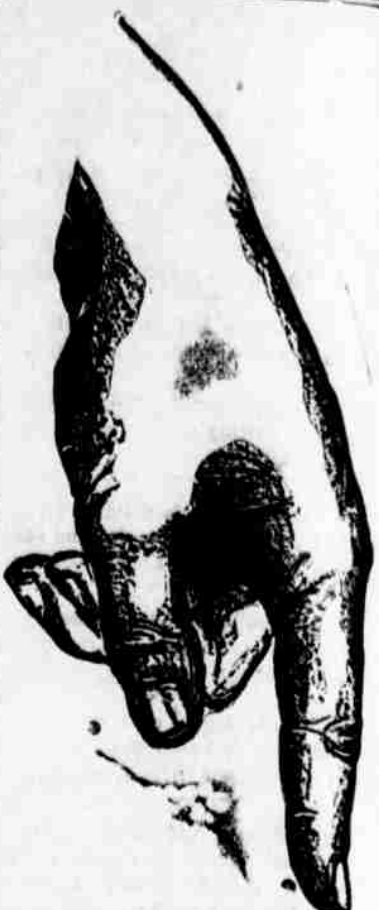
That wonderfully successful combination of black and white which promises to become staple, it is rumored, to have a rival. Midnight blue, which has also experienced an almost unprecedented popularity, is now being combined with white and at first glance one can scarcely detect the difference. So it is that blue and white in stripes, checks and the combination of the plain materials in one frock is finding much favor with the really smart. Blue and white, always midnight blue, is also combined in hats and wraps—in everything in fact for which the black and white is used.

Among sports garments is a most practical, comfortable and smart blanket coat. Indeed, if you have an extra steamer rug at home it would be just the thing for the making of the garment. The plaids are usually large. The coat is made very loose and along tailored lines. There is also a hood attached to it, so that if one is in the mountains or aboard ship upon a cool day the head can be snuggled into the hood for comfort. These coats are not usually lined, being very practical in this respect for knockabout purposes. Such a coat can be made without a hood, of course, or on the hood can be made in detachable form, fastening to the neck and shoulders of the coat with buttons and button holes.

The hip girdle of a season or so ago is returning—that is to say, it has been seen upon some very new frocks both for morning and afternoon wear. Indeed, one suit of light weight material displays such a girdle in dull messaline draped about the hips. The wide hip girdle is also occasionally worn with a washable separate skirt.

POINTS ON TOMATOES

Do you know how to skin a tomato expertly. Are you not tempted to pare off the peel from the round side first? It is so easy to take this off that it seems as though it must be the quicker way but it is not the right way. First cut out the stem, but with the core adhering to it, then remove the skin. No matter what use is to be made of the tomato, this is the way to handle it unless the



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skin is to be left on as when it is stuffed or baked whole.

A tomato is over 94 per cent water, and good water at that, which evaporates when this vegetable is baked. In some cases, when its wettest part is removed to be replaced by a stuffing the only thing left of the tomato after it is baked is a flavor and sometimes but a very slight flavor at that.

Whole tomatoes may be boiled with out breaking up or losing their shape though the peel and core have been removed. This method of preparing them leaves to them their natural bulk, and they may be just as handsome for a garnish as most baked tomatoes. They may be made handsome by boiling them on a bed of flavoring vegetables in beef stock or water and butter and a little sugar, if the liquid is all boiled away.

But plain boiled tomatoes with a seasoning are also good; better if a little butter is added to the water, which if not boiled away, may be used in soups and sauces. These are good cold with French dressing as a salad and may be eaten by those who find the raw tomato intolerable for some reason. Boil carefully in an aluminum kettle. They are likely to burn on to enameled ware.

DENTISTS DISCUSS LAWS

Three Urgent Needs of United States Named at Convention

San Francisco, Sept. 3.—The establishment of dental consultation rooms in schools to care for the teeth of the poor children, compulsory instruction of every prospective mother in the measures she should take to give her children good teeth and health and uniform dental laws are the urgent needs in the United States according to speakers today before the Panama Pacific Dental Congress.

"There are more teeth among the children of the poor in need of professional treatment than there are practitioners to treat them," said Dr. Edward F. Brown of New York. Dr. Brown is superintendent of the Bureau of Welfare of School Children of the New York Association for the Improvement of Conditions of the Poor.

A system of compulsory reports of all prospective mothers by physicians was suggested by Dr. Brown so that the mothers might be sent printed information, instructing them on measures to insure health and good teeth for their babies and to convince them of the value of prenatal care.

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